
By: ~~Delegate Taylor~~ Delegates Taylor, McIntosh, Amedori, Baldwin, Branch, Brinkley, Bobo, Boschert, Boutin, Bronrott, DeCarlo, Donoghue, Doory, Dypski, Elliott, Getty, Gladden, Glassman, Goldwater, Greenip, Hixson, Howard, Hubers, Kittleman, Leopold, Menes, Parrott, Pitkin, Ports, Riley, Rosenberg, Turner, Stocksdale, and Stull

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 30, 2001

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Public Schools - ~~Firearms Accident Prevention Program~~**
3 **Firearms Safety and Accident Prevention Education Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to establish ~~a certain~~
5 policy and guidelines for a certain firearms safety and accident prevention
6 program for certain students to be implemented by each county board of
7 education; ~~requiring the program to incorporate a certain national firearms~~
8 ~~accident prevention program~~; requiring each county board to implement the
9 program; authorizing a county board to implement the program in conjunction
10 with certain ~~local agencies entities~~; ~~authorizing a county board to implement a~~
11 ~~supplemental firearms accident prevention program~~; making a stylistic change;
12 prohibiting the display or handling of ammunition or firearms in certain
13 programs under certain circumstances; authorizing the display or handling of
14 ammunition or firearms in certain programs under certain circumstances; and
15 generally relating to ~~a firearms accident prevention program~~ the firearms safety
16 and accident prevention education program in public schools in the State.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article - Education
19 Section 2-205(h)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

22 BY adding to

1 Article - Education
2 Section 7-411.1
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

5 Preamble

6 WHEREAS, It is in the vital interests of the State of Maryland to prevent the
7 loss of children's lives to firearms accidents; and

8 WHEREAS, It is necessary to teach children that a gun is not a toy and what
9 they should do if they happen on an accessible firearm; and

10 ~~WHEREAS, The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program has taught gun safety to 15~~
11 ~~million children of all grade levels free of charge through more than 20,000 school~~
12 ~~systems, law enforcement agencies, and civic groups in all 50 states, Canada, and~~
13 ~~Puerto Rico; and~~

14 ~~WHEREAS, In 1996 the Youth Activities Division of the National Safety~~
15 ~~Council, a nonprofit, nongovernmental, international public service organization~~
16 ~~dedicated to improving the safety, health, and environmental well-being of all people,~~
17 ~~awarded its Award of Merit to the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program for its efforts to~~
18 ~~"promote safety and health, save lives, lessen injury and reduce economic loss"; and~~

19 ~~WHEREAS, The American Legion in 1995 presented the Eddie Eagle GunSafe~~
20 ~~Program with its National Education Award, and in 1994 passed a resolution~~
21 ~~recognizing the importance of the Program and encouraging its posts to introduce the~~
22 ~~Program to local schools and law enforcement agencies; and~~

23 ~~WHEREAS, In 1994 the National School Public Relations Association presented~~
24 ~~the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program with its Golden Achievement Award; and~~

25 ~~WHEREAS, The National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement~~
26 ~~Officers, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to ensuring safe learning~~
27 ~~environments and that provides national leadership in the effort to curb violence,~~
28 ~~drugs, gangs, weapons, vandalism, and other threats to school safety and security,~~
29 ~~passed a resolution endorsing "gun safety education for children that is promoted~~
30 ~~through the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program" and found that the Program "effectively~~
31 ~~teaches youngsters what to do if they encounter a firearm"; and~~

32 ~~WHEREAS, Twenty one states have passed legislation recommending or~~
33 ~~recognizing the importance of the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program and twenty three~~
34 ~~governors have recognized the importance of the Program; and~~

35 ~~WHEREAS, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention under~~
36 ~~the United States Department of Justice, at the request of then Attorney General~~
37 ~~Janet Reno, prepared a report titled Promising Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence,~~
38 ~~which included the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program as one of only 60 programs selected~~
39 ~~out of more than 400 programs reviewed, and listed the Program as an outstanding~~

1 education initiative and alternative strategy for prevention of firearms accidents;
 2 now, therefore,

3 WHEREAS, A number of youth in Maryland have been the unfortunate and
 4 tragic victims of firearms accidents over the years; and

5 WHEREAS, Firearms safety and accident avoidance programs, including the
 6 "Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program", the "In a Flash" program, and the "STAR" program,
 7 have been developed and taught to children across America by school systems, law
 8 enforcement agencies, civic and community groups, and other organizations,
 9 specifically to prevent accidental deaths from firearms; now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article - Education**

13 2-205.

14 (h) (1) With the advice of the State Superintendent, the State Board shall
 15 establish basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for the public
 16 schools.

17 (2) The policy and guidelines shall be printed in sufficient quantities to
 18 provide copies to:

19 (i) Public school officials and teachers;

20 (ii) Private schools; and

21 (iii) Interested citizens of this State.

22 (3) The State Board [of Education] shall require the establishment of
 23 criteria in each county for the selection of applicants for enrollment in public
 24 secondary school career and technology education programs. Enrollment criteria
 25 developed for this purpose shall ensure equal access to programs.

26 (4) ~~(4)~~ THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICY AND GUIDELINES
 27 FOR A PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR A FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT
 28 PREVENTION PROGRAM, TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY EACH COUNTY BOARD, THAT
 29 INCLUDES AS OPTIONS A PROGRAM DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED BY A COUNTY BOARD
 30 CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES, THE "EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE
 31 PROGRAM", THE "IN A FLASH" PROGRAM, AND THE "STAR" PROGRAM, AND THAT:

32 (I) FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 TO BE
 33 IMPLEMENTED BY EACH COUNTY BOARD 6, ADDRESSES FIREARM SAFETY AND
 34 ACCIDENT PREVENTION; AND

35 (II) FOR STUDENTS IN GRADE 7 THROUGH GRADE 12, ADDRESSES
 36 FIREARM SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OR HUNTER SAFETY, OR BOTH.

1 (II) ~~THE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR A FIREARMS ACCIDENT~~
2 ~~PREVENTION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL~~
3 ~~INCORPORATE THE NATIONAL EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM.~~

4 7-411.1.

5 (A) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM OF
6 INSTRUCTION FOR A FIREARMS FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION
7 PROGRAM OR HUNTER SAFETY THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE STUDENTS IN ITS
8 PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES
9 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER § 2-205(H)(4) OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 (B) A COUNTY BOARD MAY IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION
11 WITH A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, ANOTHER ENTITY OF STATE
12 OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR A COMMUNITY OR CIVIC ORGANIZATION.

13 (C) ~~A COUNTY BOARD MAY IMPLEMENT AN ADDITIONAL FIREARMS ACCIDENT~~
14 ~~PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT SUPPLEMENTS THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE~~
15 ~~STATE BOARD.~~

16 (C) THE FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OR HUNTER SAFETY
17 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED BY A COUNTY BOARD UNDER THIS SECTION:

18 (1) MAY NOT INVOLVE THE DISPLAY OR HANDLING OF AMMUNITION OR
19 AN ACTUAL HANDGUN, RIFLE, SHOTGUN, OR OTHER FIREARM ON SCHOOL PREMISES;
20 AND

21 (2) FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 THROUGH 12, MAY INVOLVE THE
22 DISPLAY AND HANDLING OF AMMUNITION AND AN ACTUAL HANDGUN, RIFLE,
23 SHOTGUN, OR OTHER FIREARM AT AN ESTABLISHED SPORT SHOOTING RANGE.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 July 1, 2001.